

By: Lucio III

H.R. No. 57

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to  
2 a close with the passing of the Most Reverend Raymundo J. Peña,  
3 bishop emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville, on  
4 September 24, 2021, at the age of 87; and

5           WHEREAS, The son of Cosme and Elisa Peña, Raymundo Peña was  
6 born in Corpus Christi on February 19, 1934, and he grew up in  
7 Robstown; answering his call to the priesthood, he entered the  
8 St. John's and Assumption Seminaries in San Antonio and was  
9 ordained on May 25, 1957, at the Corpus Christi Cathedral; he served  
10 in parish posts as a diocesan youth director and as editor of the  
11 *Texas Gulf Coast Catholic*; and

12           WHEREAS, Ordained as a bishop in 1976, this esteemed  
13 clergyman was named the auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of San  
14 Antonio that same year and also served as administrator; in 1980, he  
15 embarked on a 15-year tenure as bishop for the Catholic Diocese of  
16 El Paso; among his many accomplishments, he founded the Progress:  
17 Catholic Ministry Appeal and the *Rio Grande Catholic*, the official  
18 newspaper of the El Paso diocese; he also helped develop the Tepeyac  
19 Institute, which offers training for church ministry; and

20           WHEREAS, In 1995, the Most Reverend Peña was appointed bishop  
21 of the Brownsville diocese; nearly a decade and a half later, in  
22 2009, he retired as the longest-serving active Hispanic bishop in  
23 the U.S.; an admired leader in the Catholic church, he chaired  
24 committees that focused on the concerns of Hispanics in the United

1 States and Latin America, and he was a synod father for the Special  
2 Assembly for America of the Synod of Bishops; he also tirelessly  
3 advocated for the rights of immigrants and strove to promote unity  
4 along the border between Mexico and the U.S.; during his years in  
5 the ministry, he faithfully practiced his motto of "Haz todo con  
6 amor," which means "Let all that you do be done in love"; and

7 WHEREAS, Though it is impossible to gauge the full effect of  
8 one person's life, some individuals leave their unmistakable mark  
9 on the world as they move through it, and Raymundo Peña's record of  
10 good works will continue to resonate for years to come; now,  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
13 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory  
14 of the Most Reverend Raymundo J. Peña and extend heartfelt sympathy  
15 to his loved ones and friends; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for the Catholic Archives of Texas and that when the Texas  
18 House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of  
19 the Most Reverend Raymundo Peña.